

April 16, 2014

Can my helper accompany me to the U.S.?

Question: *“My family is planning a trip to the U.S. for two weeks, and we would like to take our helper along to take care of the children. We already have visas, but my helper does not have a visa and has never travelled before. How can we get a visa for her? “*

If your helper is otherwise qualified for a visa, she can be issued a B1 visa for domestic workers, which would allow her to travel with you and perform her normal duties while in the U.S. for a short visit.

While in the United States, U.S. labor laws will apply to you and your employee. This means that for the duration of the trip, your employee must be paid the minimum or prevailing wages, whichever is greater, and receive free room and board. You would also be required to pay for your employee's travel expenses to and from the United States.

At the interview, your employee should present an employment contract that outlines these provisions, which both you and your employee signs. You can download a template for the employment contract on our website, <http://kingston.usembassy.gov/domesticworkers.html>. Hold on to a copy of this contract, because the immigration officer at the port of entry will also need to see it. Your employee will also receive a pamphlet at the interview that outlines their rights as a worker while they are in the United States.